

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON/ROAKLEY:KM

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

IO:MHERZ (SUBSTANCE)

S/S-O GTWOHIE

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O 040205Z JAN 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

USINT CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 001492

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, UN

SUBJ: BLOCKING OF SUPPLY CONVOYS

1. UN A/SGY URQUHART INFORMED US AT 1830 THAT EGYPTIAN PERM REP MEQUID HAD JUST CALLED TO SAY HE HAS INSTRUCTIONS CALL IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY MTG OF SC TO CONSIDER ISRAELI BLOCKING OF SUPPLY CONVOYS TO EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY. SUPPLY CONVOYS HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOWED THROUGH FOR TWO DAYS, ACCORDING TO UN REPORTS. URQUHART INFORMED US EARLIER TODAY THAT ISRAELIS HAD INDICATED TO UN REASON FOR DELAYING CONVOYS WAS EGYPTIANS FIRING ON ISRAELI MILITARY ELEMENTS.

2. URQUHART SAID ACTING UNEF COMMANDER HAS TALKED TO EGYPTIAN GENERAL GAMASY URGING RESTRAINT. LATTER REPLIED THAT, HE CAN NOT ACCEPT LINKAGE BETWEEN SUPPLY OF THIRD ARMY AND SHOOTING, WHICH ISRAELIS ARE MAKING, BUT WILL NEVERTHELESS ORDER EGYPTIAN FORCES EXERCISE UTMOST RESTRAINT WHILE UN ATTEMPT GET CONVOYS ROLLING AGAIN. FAHMI'S INSTRUCTIONS TO MEQUID URGE THAT SYG ORDER
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UNEF TO RUN ISRAELI BLOCKADE BY FORCE, IF NECESSARY, TO GET CONVOY THROUGH.

3. URQUHART THINKS HE CAN HOLD OFF MEQUID UNTIL

MORNING JAN 4 NEW YORK TIME. HOWEVER, IF BY THAT TIME IT IS CLEAR THAT ISRAEL HAS BLOCKED CONVOY FOR THIRD STRAIGHT DAY, URQUHART THINKS SC MEETING WILL BE CALLED AND NASTY DEBATE WILL ENSUE.

4. FOR TEL AVIV: IN ABSENCE OF SECRETARY AND SISCO, ATHERTON CALLED AMBASSADOR DINITZ AT 1945 WASHINGTON TIME TO INFORM HIM OF EGYPTIAN INSTRUCTIONS TO CALL SC MEETING AND OF INFORMATION WE HAD RECEIVED FROM UN RE GENERAL GAMASY'S ASSURANCES TO UNEF COMMANDER. ATHERTON SAID SECRETARY WAS PLANNING TO RAISE THIS PROBLEM WITH DAYAN TOMORROW, BUT IN VIEW OF TIME FACTOR HE WAS MEANWHILE ASKING DINITZ TO CONTACT JERUSALEM TO RELAY OUR HOPE WE COULD RECEIVE ASSURANCES FROM GOI THAT TOMORROW MORNING'S CONVOY (ABOUT SIX HOURS FROM NOW) WOULD BE PERMITTED TO PASS. SC COUNCIL MEETING AT THIS DELICATE STAGE WOULD HAVE SERIOUSLY DISRUPTIVE REPERCUSSIONS AND EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO PREVENT IT. DINITZ SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PROBLEM AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY COMMUNICATE WITH JERUSALEM. FOREGOING IS FYI AND YOU NEED TAKE NO ACTION AT THIS TIME.

5. FOR CAIRO: IN ADDITION TO INSTRUCTIONS SEPTTEL RE APPROACH TO SIRRI, YOU SHOULD TELL HIM WE ARE ALSO TAKING UP SUPPLY CONVOY QUESTION TONIGHT WITH ISRAELIS AND SAY WE STRONGLY URGE GOE NOT RPT NOT CALL SC MEETING WHILE EFFORTS GO FORWARD TO SORT OUT SUPPLY CONVOY PROBLEM. NOTHING WOULD BE MORE DAMAGING TO CURRENT DISENGAGEMENT EFFORTS THAN SC DEBATE AT THIS TIME, WHICH WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE BROADENED FAR BEYOND IMMEDIATE ISSUE. RUSH

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